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Message Text

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15
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 SCEM-02

SCI-06 INT-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 STR-08 OMB-01 /156 W
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R 010410Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7117
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12614

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, JA, CH
SUBJ: REPORTS OF JAPANESE COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT
OF PRC OIL RESOURCES

REF: HONG KONG 7604

SUMMARY: RECENT PRESS REPORS OF JAPANESE COOPERATION
IN DEVELOPING PRC OIL RESERVES APPARENTLY BASED ON PRC
REQUEST FOR JAPANESE SUBMARINE PIPELINE TECHNOLOGY. END
SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE PRESS RECENTLY CARRIED ARTICLES WITH HEAD-
LINES TO EFFECT THAT JAPANESE FIRMS HAD BEEN ASKED TO
DEVELOP OIL RESOURCES IN PRC'S POHAI BAY. HEAD-
LINES BASED ON PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY MITSUI TRADING
CO. PRESIDENT IKEDA ON SEPT 21. ACCORDING TO TRADE PAPER,
NIHON KOGYO, IKEDA SAID THAT MITSUI CO. AND
NIPPON STEEL WOULD BEGIN TALKS WITH PRC, DURING UPCOM-
ING CANTON FAIR, ON PIPELINE FACILITIES NEEDED FOR EXPLORATION OF
POHAI BAY RESERVES. OTHER PAPERS NOTED PRC ALSO SEEKING
SHIP FOR PIPE LAYING, AND SPECULATED TOTAL DEAL MIGHT BE
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WORTH AS MUCH AS $80-120 MILLION.

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2. MITSUI CO. REPRESENTATIVES DECLINED TO ELABORATE ON OR CONFIRM IKEDA'S REPORTED REMARKS. NIPPON STEEL SOURCE (OTOHIKO MIKI, GENERAL MANAGER OF PLANNING AND COORDINATION DEPT OF ENGINEERING AND CONSULTING DIV) TOLD EMBOFF THAT NIPPON STEEL HAS ACCEPTED INVITATION OF PRC TO ATTEND CANTON FAIR FROM NOV. 1-15. PURPOSE IS TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF TECHNICAL EXCHANGE RE SUBMARINE OIL PIPELAYING AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SUBMARINE PIPELINES. NIPPON STEEL WOULD SEND THREE ENGINEERS, HE SAID. INVITATION TO FAIR CAME THROUGH CONTACT MADE BY MITSUI CO. MIKI SAID THAT, OF COURSE, NIPPON STEEL AND MITSUI HOPED THAT FIRM CONTRACTS COULD BE DEVELOPED ON BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS AT FAIR, BUT THAT THUS FAR ONLY TECHNICAL EXCHANGES HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY CHINESE. MIKI HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION.

3. SOURCE IN CHINA DIV OF FONOFF (SAITO) SAID HIS REACTION TO PRESS REPORTS OF JAPAN-CHINA COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING POHAI OIL RESOURCES WAS THAT IT VERY CONCEIVABLE THAT PRC WOULD WANT JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY, TECHNICIANS, AND EQUIPMENT. HOWEVER, SELF-SUFFICIENCY PRINCIPLE STILL TOO STRONG TO PERMIT PRC TO ACCEPT COOPERATION BY FOREIGN FIRMS IN EXPLOITATION OF PRC NATURAL RESOURCES.

4. EMBASSY NOTES IN PARA THREE OF REFTEL THAT PRC HAS PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL HARBOR PIPELINE FACILITIES AT DAIREN TO HANDLE INCREASED OIL EXPORTS. SUCH FACILITIES MIGHT PERHAPS REQUIRE UNDERSEA PIPELINE TECHNOLOGY OF TYPE THAT CHINESE ARE REQUESTING.
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